

Professor Contact Information

Professor: Dr. R. Genthos
Office Hrs: Wed 3:00 – 5:00
By appointment.

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Voice Mail: Please include: 1. Your full name 2. The class in question 3. A *detailed* explanation for why you are calling.



Email: Please use a relevant subject, with “**SS 385 Research Methods**” in the subject line, & 1) include a salutation to Dr. Genthos, 2) use descriptive, detailed content about why you are emailing in the body, and 3) sign your name. **Please do not assume that I will view an email outside of Monday – Friday; 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Plan ahead when sending requests, notifications, or other information. Example: If you have an assignment that is due on a Thursday, do not expect a speedy response if you email me Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m. Allow two full business days before sending me a friendly reminder.

A note on information reconnaissance and communication processes in the age of technology:

All communication with me and your classmates must be professional, which I define as “an approach and demeanor that both reserves and holds the space for respectful, ethical, productive, and efficient interactions”.

Check 5 to Thrive: I am here to guide and support you, and welcome your questions or inquiries.

Before you decide to contact me, if you have a question about course content, an assignment, etc. Please check....

1. The syllabus
2. The information on Canvas (assignment portal, general directions, links)
3. The (video) instructions
4. The guide or rubric to the assignment in question
5. The course Q & A

* Please wait to get in touch with me with questions, comments, concerns, or notifications after you have gone through this process. In a time crunch, if your question can easily be answered by one of these aspects, I will prioritize other requests.

Course Material: Textbooks



1. Dixon et al. (2018). *The Process of Social Research* (1st Ed.) Stanford, CT: Oxford University Press. ISBN [9780190876654](https://www.oxfordup.com/9780190876654) ****Required****
2. American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th). Washington, DC: Author. ISBN (7th): 9781433832161 → Free online material could substitute (e.g. OWL Purdue)

Course Description & Objectives

Develops students' ability to design an empirical study within the ethical constraints of human research and to understand the results of research in professional journals. Specific research designs covered include archival research, correlation, experimental designs, naturalistic observation, participant observation, quasi-experimental designs, single subject designs, and survey research. Integrates (1) analytical and evaluative thinking, (2) descriptive, explanatory, and critical writing, & (3) basic knowledge of the theory and application of qualitative and quantitative research design. Pre-requisite: [ENGL-102](#) or [ENGL-109](#), and a total of 24 credit hours in the General Education Core, or instructor permission.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define and describe the major elements of the research process.
2. Develop a research hypothesis in reference to specific topic areas.
3. Take into consideration ethical concerns when evaluating research and constructing research designs.
4. Differentiate major research designs & evaluate their appropriateness for investigating certain research questions.
5. Evaluate the reliability & validity of various measures.
6. Understand how methods of surveying and sampling alter a research project's impact.
7. Write critically about relevant research and synthesize into a potential research project.

Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements (xx/800 points)

Course Preparatory Assignments (30/800 pts)

Syllabus Quiz (15/800). To continue on with the rest of the class, you will need to pass a brief quiz on the syllabus content on the first day of the semester.

Quiz Submitted on Canvas

Get to Know You Discussion Post (10/800). You will choose from several answer prompts and then post those answers with a picture on the Canvas discussion portal. This assignment will help create a sense of community for the class and allow me to get you know you and your thoughts about research methods.

Discussion Post Submitted on Canvas; Picture Must Be Embedded

Exams (3 Exams, 100 pts each; Final Retake Opportunity; 300/800). Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions and cover material from the assigned readings, videos, and class activities. To earn an A, you must be able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the concepts and an ability to apply the concepts; being able to recognize and/or reiterate definitions will not suffice. In general, exams will include only new material covered since the previous exam; however, previous topics may come up again on later exams (e.g., to answer an exam question about internal validity, you will need to be able to understand the elements of an experiment). The 4th (final) exam will be an optional retake option (Exam 1, 2, or 3). **All exams will be proctored at an approved location or use Respondus Lockdown Browser + Monitor.**

Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements (Continued)

Preparatory Assignments for Research Proposal; One Submission Attempt (225/800).

Empirical Article Analysis (25/800). You will choose an empirical article from a pool of choices that interests you and analyze it for various elements. This assignment will prepare you to critically think about the 10 articles you will choose and synthesize for your annotated bibliography and research introduction.

Quiz Submitted on Canvas

Plagiarism Training (50/800). Due to the writing intensive nature of this course, you will complete an online training that will help ensure that you are aware of what constitutes plagiarism. You will submit a **SIGNED** (with ink) digital copy of your completion certificate. If completed on time, you will receive full credit (35 points total). <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/> No account required.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_4_PlagiarismCert

Senior Project Advisor Meeting (JS 499, PSY 499, etc.; 25/800). In order to prepare you for your eventual 499 capstone project, you are required to figure out who your professor or advisor for the class/project would be, set up a brief (15 – 30 minute) meeting with them, then fill out and submit an information sheet about what you learned.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_5_499_Meet

Annotated Reference List (100/800). An APA style list of **at least 5 empirical sources** with a 200 - 250 word notation that contains a summary, assessment, and evaluation of each source. Your annotated reference list will help you create your problem statement and background literature (introduction section). Only two of these initial sources may be webpages, seven (4) must be empirical articles. *Consult an APA manual before submission. Length: typically ~ 3 1/2 - 4 1/2 pgs. Although many of the articles on your initial list will remain the same, as you find your remaining five sources you may realize that some of them are not as relevant as you originally assumed. As such, you may need to find different sources.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_6_AnnBiB

Research Meeting with a Librarian (25/800). After scheduling a one-on-one meeting with a librarian to find at least three (3) empirical articles related to your topic of interest, you will type up and submit a reference list, along with the meeting confirmation email sent by the librarian with whom you were scheduled.

Example File name: Jones_L_385_7_Research_Lib

Research Proposal (250/800). The components of a research proposal (see below for list of sections) will be submitted in smaller sections throughout the semester. These individual sections or smaller subsections of the research proposal may be resubmitted for grade replacement: the Introduction [Problem Statement, Background Literature, The Current Study], Method [Participants, Measures, & Procedures], and References.

This gives you several options for writing submission because you have the option of submitting twice. You can:

- 1) turn in the sections the first time and keep the original grade,
- 2) skip the first submission and submit once on the second, final due date, or
- 3) turn the sections in on initial due date and again on the final submission due date improve (replace) your grade.

[Section 1: Introduction 1.2]

Background Literature, & Reference Section (100/800). **Background Literature:** A thorough, concise, and relevant overview of the extant research available on your topic. It should be clear to the reader why/how your research contributes to the knowledge available in the specific field(s) you are investigating. Your background literature should be in a “funnel” shape. You should start out with general information and then slowly become more specific as you tell the reader about the background literature, specifically the empirical articles, related to your topic(s). From your 10 references, you will choose three “target” articles that are mostly closely linked to your topic and describe them in detail at the end of the background literature or a relevant section. *Please consult an APA manual about section headers before turning this section in.* Length highly varies depending on topic and writing style, ~ 3 ½ - 5 pgs (reference section will be additional ~1 pg). In-text citations for all 10 references must exist. Consistency between in-text citations and reference section will be checked.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_8_BackLit

[Section 2: Introduction 1.1]

***Problem Statement (50/800), Problem statement:** Broad information describing the topic(s) that will be covered in your background literature, which will end with a research question/statement. This section acts as an introduction/overview/outline to your background literature. Length: ~ ½ – 1 pg. Three (3) empirical references are required.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_9_PS

[Section 3: Introduction 1.2; Method]

***The Current Study & Method [75/800 pts]. The Current Study:** The last section of an introduction merges together rationale for the study in addition to outlining your specific hypothesis (1). Length ~ ½ pg. **Method:** Consists of several subsections; you will describe the **participants** who will be involved in your study and the **procedures** (what your participants will experience while going through your study) you will use to complete the study and the **measures** (instruments/operationalizations) you will use to test your hypothesis. Overall, your method section will be a thorough description of everything you intend to do in the study in a step-by-step fashion, which should allow for replication. You will use future tense. Length depends on design, ~ 2-2 ½ pgs.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_CS_Method

[Section 4: Front Matter; Resubmission]

Title Page & APA Style Abstract (25/800 pts) + *Revision Opportunity (Grade Replacement).

An APA style title page, along with a 120 – 150 word abstract is required regardless of whether or not you resubmit any research proposal sections for grade replacement. Any revisions you submit will also be submitted on the same due date.

Example File Name: Jones_L_385_TitlePage_Abstract

<u>Research Methods (SS/PSYC 385) Evaluation</u>	
Syllabus Quiz	___/ 15
Get to Know You Discussion Post	___/ 10
Plagiarism Training	___/ 50
Senior Project Advisor Meeting	___/ 25
Empirical Article Analysis	___/ 25
Research Meeting w/a Librarian	___/ 25
Exam 1	___/100
Annotated Bibliography	___/100
Exam 2	___/100
*Background Literature, References	___/100
*Problem Statement, References	___/50
Exam 3	___/100
*The Current Study & Method	___/75
Title Page & Abstract, Revisions/*Full Paper	___/25
*Optional Retake of Exam 1, 2,3 as 4 th Final Exam	Total: ___/800

<u>Grading Scale Breakdown</u>		
A	93	100%
A-	89.45	92.45
B+	86.45	89.44
B	82.45	86.44
B-	79.45	82.44
C+	76.45	79.44
C	72.45	76.44
C-	69.45	72.44
D+	66.45	69.44
D	59.45	66.44
F		59.44

Course Policies

Assignment Submission

Writing assignments will be submitted via Canvas in the form of a Word compatible file (.doc, .docx, .pdf; unless otherwise noted) titled with last name, first initial, 385 & assignment number and title (e.g. Taylor_J_385_PS_Ref) by 11:59 pm on the relevant due date. It is critical that you factor in the amount of time that it will take you to upload your assignment using the Canvas portal. Papers that are time stamped past 11:59 pm will receive an automatic 10% deduction. You may only submit assignments up to 3 days late and 10% will be deducted for each day it is late. If the link to submit the assignment is not available on Canvas, I will not accept the assignment. All submissions will be APA style (double-spaced with one-inch margins, etc.; see relevant guides and your APA manual).

Note on Course Format and Extra Credit

You will notice from this syllabus and the content on Canvas that there are no “fluff” points in this course (busy work). I do not provide discussion posts for a variety of reasons, mostly due to the nature of the content in the course, but also because many students do not fully engage in meaningful discussion posts and replies, and those that do are left disappointed. Additionally, the anonymity of the virtual discussion allows far too much unprofessional behavior and superficial contributions (as we are all aware of from social media). As such, the points in the course are based on your assignments, writing submissions, and exams. Extra credit will be offered in the following ways: 1) Completing the optional comprehension quizzes available at the end of each unit, allowing you to earn up to 1-point extra credit (.1 earned per question answered correctly), 2) Getting feedback from my research assistants or in the writing center for your writing assignments (+ 5%), and , 3) Attending certain LCSC events (virtual events allowed; up to 5 events at 3 points each; 1.5 points for summary; 1.5 pts for applying research methods concepts). I will not create extra credit specifically for individual students, and thus it is in your best interest to be attentive to your grade at the beginning of the semester. ☺

Make-up/Late Assignment and Exam Policy

You are allowed a retake attempt as your final exam, thus no make – up exams will be offered. I accept writing assignments up to three (3) days late with no questions asked. Other accommodations will only be made under certain, extenuating circumstances (documentation may be requested) if the reason for your absence is made known to me **within two (2) days of the absence/due date**. These valid circumstances include documented illness, college-sanctioned travel, the observance of a religious holy day, or a life event that I deem excusatory. For those excuses I deem valid, including those listed above or supported by documentation, no deduction of points will be taken. Other excuses will result in a **10% penalty for each day the exam is past the deadline/original completion** date. Students are expected to make all reasonable efforts to notify me of their absence in advance. It would be in your best interest to tell me as soon as possible when you expect to be absent or after you have missed an exam or due date. I know that life happens and appreciate honesty. The important thing is that you communicate with me. Please do not waste your time, or mine, making up excuses. I will always consider the date you sent the email or called, NOT what day I received your communication.

Online Behavior

Please review the following guidelines for online course [netiquette](#)

Statement about Academic Dishonesty, Misconduct and Consequences

Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members will impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the VP for Student Affairs for official disciplinary action. It is the aim of the faculty of Lewis-Clark State College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension or expulsion. **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. “Academic exercise” includes all forms of work submitted for credit hours. **Fabrication:** Intentional and/or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or the source of any information in an academic exercise. **Collusion facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of Academic Dishonesty. **Plagiarism:** the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statement of another person as one’s own without proper acknowledgement (includes self-plagiarism).

If you are suspected of cheating, fabrication, collusion or plagiarism. You will first have a meeting with me about the academic exercise in question (exam, writing assignment). Evidence of academic misconduct will result in a failing grade for that assignment for any student(s) involved. You will then be interviewed by Dr. Andrew Hanson, Vice President for Student Affairs, about the incident, which will be kept on file and may provide stand-alone or supportive evidence for expulsion or suspension.

SS/PSYC 385 Course Schedule

(*Subject to Change at Discretion of Professor)

Week Module	Date		Reading	Topic	Assignments Due W 11:59 p.m.
	Mon	Fri			
1	1.18 Tue	1.21	Syllabus 1	Syllabus/Course Format Philosophy of Science	1. Syllabus Quiz 2. Get to Know You Post
2	1.24	1.28	1	Introduction <i>Why Care About Research Methods?</i>	3. Empirical Article Analysis
3	1.31	2.4	2	Science & Social Research <i>From Theory to Data & Back</i>	4. Signed Plagiarism Training
4	2.7	2.11	3	The Ethics & Politics of Research <i>Doing What's Right</i>	5. Evidence of 499 Advisor Meeting
5	2.14	2.18	4	Research Designs <i>It Depends on the Question</i>	6. Annotated Bibliography
6	2.21 (Mon)	2.22 (Tue)	Review	Review for Exam 1	
	2.23 (Wed)	2.24 (Thu)	1, 2, 4, 5	Exam 1	
7	2.28	3.4	5	Measurement <i>Linking Theory to Research</i>	7. Research Meeting w/Librarian
8	3.7	3.11	6	Sampling <i>Case Selection as a Basis for Inference</i>	8. Background Literature & References
9	3.14	3.18	8	Surveys <i>Questioning & Sampling</i>	
10	3.21	3.25	9	Field Research & In-Depth Interviews <i>Systematic People Watching & Listening</i>	9. Problem Statement & References
Spring Break Monday, 3/28 – Friday, 4					
11	4.4 (Mon)	4.5 (Tue)	Review	Review for Exam 2	
	4.6 (Wed)	4.7 (Thu)	6, 8, 9, 8*	Exam 2	
12	4.11	4.15	8 Morling	Correlations <i>The Link Between Two Variables</i>	10. The Current Study & Method
13	4.18	4.22	7	Experiments <i>What Causes What?</i>	
14	4.25	4.29	11	Multiple Methods <i>Two or More Approaches</i>	11. Title Page & Abstract Optional Revisions (#8, #9, #10)
15	5.2 (Mon)	5.3 (Tue)	Review	Review for Exam 3	
	5.4 (Wed)	5.5 (Thu)	7, 11, 3	Exam 3	
16	5.9 (Mon)	5.10 (Tue)	Review	Final Exam (Optional Retake)	